

public press? I cannot believe it. If he has used his high office to advance special interests, if he has sacrificed the people for private or personal gain let it be shown. If, on the other hand, the people have been deceived and he has been unjustly accused, let the first to suggest that justice may be done him, but that the confidence of the public in the honesty and integrity of its public servants may be restored and the animus of the attacks disclosed.

Phase He Declines to Discuss.

"Much has been said regarding his views on the conservation of our natural resources. I shall not discuss at this time. I believe that it will be shown that his purpose and objects are substantially the same as those of the most radical conservationist, and the main difference is but one of methods. Assuredly there is room for an honest difference of opinion as to how our great natural resources can best be conserved. I may agree with some of the views of those who are critics of the policies, the methods and proposals of the Secretary, but I have not the slightest doubt.

"One thing is sure, we have had several years of talk about conservation, we have had platitudes piled upon platitudes in the most dramatic way, but no specified detailed plans for conservation have been presented.

"The present Secretary of the Interior, instead of doing anything, has been generally making specific recommendations regarding all the important conservation problems so far as they come within the jurisdiction of his department, and has prepared and submitted to the careful scrutiny of the people and of Congress legislation that he considers necessary to effect the objects so much desired by all. He recommends the repeal of the timber and stone laws, and the disposal of the land separate from the soil. He recommends that coal deposits be separated from the title to the surface, and that the coal be disposed of separate from the land by sale or lease.

Prevention of Monopoly.

"He recommends legislation to prevent the acquisition of power sites on the public domain by private persons or corporations, with the view of monopolizing or adversely controlling them against public interest. He has withdrawn all locations known to possess power possibilities on unappropriated lands outside of national forests over which his department has no jurisdiction, and he is authorizing the classification of lands.

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on the table to be taken up tomorrow and either referred to the committee on public lands or considered immediately by the Senate.

Senator Newlands took exception to the statement of Senator Jones that Secretary Ballinger was the first to suggest comprehensive legislation for the conservation of natural resources.

"For a period of five years or more," he declared, "the friends of conservation have sought to induce Congress to enact practical measures."

"Congress has not acted. It is always urged, driven by public opinion. I am glad that public opinion on this subject is growing so that it will force Congress to act."

Wants Action, Not Inquiry.

Senator Newlands declared that he would regret such an investigation as is proposed, if it will delay the passage of legislation, but that he would welcome it if it induces Congress to pass some conservative legislation.

"I am more intent on action than upon investigation," he said, "and I am sure that the Secretary of the Interior was entitled to the highest credit for his recommendations along the line of conservation. His last report, and expressed the hope that they would ripen promptly into legislation."

"In the main, the recommendations are thorough and comprehensive," he said, "and will remedy the evils under which the country has been suffering."

Introduced in the House.

A resolution identical with the one offered in the Senate by Senator Jones was presented in the House by Representative Humphrey. It was referred to the committee on rules. Speaking of the resolution, Representative Humphrey declared that the time had come when the whole country demanded an investigation of the whole matter underlying the so-called Pinchot-Ballinger controversy.

"Secretary Ballinger demanded an investigation and has insisted that it shall be thorough and wide enough to include everything connected with him and his department," said Mr. Humphrey, who added: "The country demands this investigation. Let us have light. As I have known Secretary Ballinger for many years, so I have known Mr. Gifford Pinchot for several years. I have been a friend of both, and am today."

"I believe both have done their duty as they saw it. About them centers this investigation. The conditions have become intolerable; if the facts demonstrate that either or both have been guilty of any act deserving it, let them be removed from public office. If there is nothing in these charges, then let us have an investigation that will make the truth so plain that it will forever close the polluted lips of slander."

Refers to Exonerations.

Mr. Humphrey spoke in the highest terms of Mr. Ballinger as a fellow citizen of Seattle, where he said, no one ever questioned his integrity. Referring to his exoneration by the President of the charges which had been preferred against the Secretary, Mr. Humphrey said:

"The word of the President has no weight with those who seek to destroy Secretary Ballinger. It has become a well settled conviction throughout the country that the Secretary's exoneration is a disgrace to the President and a disgrace to the present administration."

Members of the House gave close attention to Mr. Humphrey's speech and to the reading of the resolution.

Suggested Personnel of Committee.

Speculation is rife as to the personnel of the committee to be named to make the investigation of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. Many names have been considered, but no decision has been reached. While it is not likely that the committee will be appointed for a few days, the indications are that the following will be selected:

Senators—Nelson (Minn.), Root (N. Y.), Flint (Cal.), Sutherland (Utah), republicans; Paynter (Ky.) and either Clarke (Ark.) or Hughes (Col.), democrats.

Members named in the House—Hale (Pa.), McCall (Mass.), Stephens (Minn.), Martin (S. D.), republicans, and Howard (Ga.) and Moon (Tenn.) or Shirley (Ky.), democrats.

There is some doubt as to the appointment of Senator Flint, but it is apparently certain that the other republican members named will be chosen. As herebefore announced, Senator Nelson will be the chairman.

DR. COOK NOT DECORATED BY THE KING OF DENMARK

Minister Egan Declares That Only Honors Bestowed Were Those by Purely Scientific Societies.

Dr. Maurice F. Egan, the United States minister to Denmark, today emphatically denied that King Frederick VIII of Denmark had bestowed upon Dr. Frederick A. Cook the Doonobog decoration, which is a recognition generally given to explorers and scientists making important discoveries. The honors bestowed upon Dr. Cook in Denmark, he said, were by purely scientific societies.

"The king would not have done that without consulting me," said Mr. Egan. "It was never mentioned by anybody. I had no idea of asking such a thing, because that might possibly involve a responsibility on the part of my government."

Mr. Egan added that he had been flooded with messages from newspapers and scientific bodies all over the country regarding the matter, and he hoped the statement he now made would forever set it at rest.

MAY ARBITRATE CLAIM

British Minister to China Counsels Over Macao Dispute.

PEKING, January 5.—Because of Great Britain's position as Portugal's protector, John N. Jordan, British minister to China, yesterday, in a friendly capacity, counseled the foreign board that China adopt arbitration as the best means to a resolution of the Macao boundary dispute.

While China, in a dispatch sent last Sunday, notified the Portuguese government that it would not submit the matter to The Hague it did not close the way to arbitration by some other court.

DANES HAVE COOK'S DATA.

Original Notebook Finally Reaches University of Copenhagen.

COPENHAGEN, January 5.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook's original notebook arrived here today, and will be examined by the committee immediately.

Rector Salomonson says, however, that the investigation will not alter the committee's judgment as to the facts of the case, and is still convinced that the explorer's claim to the discovery of the pole is not bona fide.

The Cook matter came up when a report was submitted by H. L. Bridgman, president of the department of geography, telling of the discredit thrown upon Cook's claims of polar achievement by the University of Copenhagen.

HIGH PRICE OF FOOD

Progress of Movement to Discover the Responsibility.

RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY

Senator Elkins and Senator Crawford Bring Matter Before Congress.

ARMY FACING DEFICIENCY

Increased Cost of Products Calls for Emergency Fund for Sub-sistence Purposes.

Three important developments marked the progress today of the movement to discover the responsibility for the high cost of foods. Senator Elkins of West Virginia and Senator Crawford of South Dakota introduced in the Senate resolutions for a congressional investigation into the cost of living. The War Department informed the House that there was a deficiency of \$1,505,635 for the subsistence of the army, largely attributable to the advanced prices of articles used in the army rations. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson said that if Congress investigated the cost of living he would wash his hands of the matter.

"That Congress is aroused to the necessity of action of some sort is plain by the interest taken at the Capitol in the resolution of Representative Douglas, introduced yesterday, and those of Senators Elkins and Crawford, introduced today. These resolutions were ordered to be printed and to lie on the table, but unless Congress act, interest ceases suddenly. They are not apt to rest in pigeonholes of any length of time."

"The fact that the army is facing a deficiency in one of its most important branches will probably give impetus to congressional action."

Secretary Wilson's Comment.

"Should Congress take this matter up," Secretary Wilson said today, "our investigation will be called off." All we can do is to turn over what information we have on hand to the congressional committee and let them do the rest."

Secretary Wilson feels competent to carry out his duty, he said. "I have the men already, and our work could be done without extra expense."

Senator Elkins' Resolution.

Senator Elkins of West Virginia introduced a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of five senators to make a thorough investigation into the cost of living in the country, with a view to determining whether or not it has increased in recent years, and who or what is responsible for any increase, and to suggest a remedy, and present bills to carry the suggestion into effect. The resolution was ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.

Senator Elkins' resolution provides: "That there shall be appointed by the President of the Senate a select committee of five senators, to be known as the committee on the cost of living, to hold hearings during the sessions of the Senate or during the recess of Congress, either as a committee or a subcommittee, with instructions to make a thorough investigation into the cost of living and any increase of the same since 1900; to ascertain whether the necessities of life which enter into the cost of living have increased, and, if so, to ascertain the causes or causes which have influenced the increase."

"In making such investigation special attention shall be given by the committee to the subject of wages and income, and to the increase of the same has kept pace with the increase in the cost of living; increased prices, if any, of such necessities of life as food, clothing, fuel, oil, brick and cement; stating in sold retail price to the producer, the wholesale price to the retailer, and the consumer at which said articles were distributed and sold in 1900, and the price for their disposition and sale at the present time."

Cost of Production.

"It shall further be the duty of such committee to ascertain the cost of production and the cost of their distribution and sale when in the hands of the whole of the country, and the retailer between the same periods."

"If, in the judgment of such committee, such articles have been increased in price by reason of legislation by Congress or by any other means, the committee shall report to the Senate with suggestions or recommendations as to the remedy to be applied to reduce the cost of living, and to the effect of such a bill as will, in the opinion of the committee, correct and remove the causes which have enhanced the price of said articles."

"Such committee or subcommittee is authorized to employ experts, administer oaths, and to send for persons and papers and employ such messenger to report its hearings and have such hearings printed."

The Crawford Proposition.

Senator Crawford of South Dakota proposed, in a resolution which he submitted, that the Senate call upon the Department of Commerce and Labor to send to the Senate statistics which it has collected on the range of prices of food and clothing during the last ten years. Like the resolution of Senator Elkins, the other, the resolution was ordered to be printed and to lie on the table.

Secretary Wilson says it is not in the higher grades that the great profit is being made by the retailers. "Our investigations show that the purchasers of the poorer grades of meat are the ones who suffer most," Mr. Wilson said today. "There is a large profit to the retailers in this vicinity, for instance, on the beef that is shipped in from nearby localities."

Discussed by Grocers.